



TELEFAX

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-11, 13-21 and 23-29 are currently pending in the present patent application. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

**Claim rejections – 35 USC §103**

In the report, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 10, 11, 14, 20, 21 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Henson et al. (EP 279,232 A2).

In response to the Examiner's rejection of independent claims 1, 11, and 21 that alleges that these claim are unpatentable over Henson et al., Applicants amended these claims by incorporating the limitations of the dependent claims 2, 12, and 22, which are allowed. As a consequence, claims 2, 12, and 22 have been canceled from the application.

In view of the present claims amendments, Applicants respectfully traverse the outstanding rejection, and herein submits that Henson et al. fails to teach or suggest the invention of the amended claims 1, 11, and 21. Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter claimed in claim 1 is novel and non-obvious, and thus patentable over Henson et al.. Claims 4 and 10 depend directly from claim 1, while adding further limitations thereto are therefore submitted as being patentable as well.

Because claim 11 comprises limitations similar to claim 1, which is herein submit as being patentable, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 11 is also novel and non-obvious, and thus patentable over the cited reference. Claims 14 and 20 depend directly or from claim 11, while adding further limitations thereto are therefore submitted as being patentable as well.

Since claim 21 comprises limitations similar to claim 1, which is herein submit as being patentable, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 11 is also novel and non-obvious, and thus patentable over the cited reference. Claim 29 depends directly from claim 21, while adding further limitations thereto is therefore submitted as being patentable as well.

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**Allowable Subject Matter**

In the report, the Examiner objected to claims 2, 3, 5-9, 12, 13, 15-19 and 22-28 for being dependent upon a rejected base claim. However, the Examiner mentioned that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in an independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 2, 12 and 22 have been incorporated in independent claims 1, 11 and 21 respectively and deleted without prejudice made to Applicants. Claims 3, 13 and 23 have been amended to be made dependent on claims 1, 11 and 21 respectively.

In view of the abovementioned remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable action for all pending claims.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the present patent application is now in condition for favorable action. Should the Examiner wish to further discuss the present response or patent application, the undersigned can be reached at (514) 345-7891.

Respectfully submitted,

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